Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the following paragraph at page 1 at line 3:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application 10/077,835 filed on February 15, 2002, now U.S. Patent 6,677,567 by Jaewan Hong et al, that is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

The paragraph beginning at page 11, line 15, is amended as follows:

A tightening mechanism of a dovetail assembly of the probe head 36 with z stage 73 is illustrated in FIGs. 7A- 7D. A bottom dovetail rail 74 is rigidly mounted on the z stage 73. A top dovetail rail 75 has a flexure structure 76 as shown in FIG. 7C. The upper portion 77 of top dovetail rail 75 is rigidly mounted on the z stage but the lower portion 78 can be pushed down by the two screws on each end of the top rail. The screw on the left has a normal right-handed thread, while the screw on the right side has a left-handed thread. Each screw has a removable handle, which can be slid out and re-inserted in any of twelve possible angles as shown in FIG. 7D. A user can select any appropriate angle such that the last 90° turn makes firm clamping (or releasing) of the lower portion 78 of top dove tail rail 75 against the head 36.

The abstract at page 16, lines 7-13 is completely deleted and replaced with the following:

-- A mounting mechanism for the probe tip of a Scanning Probe Microscope (SPM) includes a scanner supported by a stationary frame, and a kinematic mechanism supported by the scanner. The kinematic mechanism includes at least three protrusions and at least one magnet. The mounting mechanism for the probe tip also includes a chip mount having a hole, a slot and a flat surface. The chip mount, on being held by the magnet, provides an easy way to mount the probe tip without requiring any tools. --

SILICON VALLEY
ATENT GROUP LLP

0 Mission College Blvd
Suite 360
anta Clara, CA 95054
(408) 982-8200
FAX (408) 982-8210